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Please amend the claims to read as follows:

21. (once amended) A method of treating a pathology or a condition characterized by the TGF- β -induced production and deleterious accumulation of an extracellular matrix component in a tissue comprising:

contacting the tissue with an agent that binds to a TGF- β ;

[and that] whereby the binding of the agent to the TGF- β suppresses the deleterious accumulation of [a] the TGF- β -induced extracellular matrix component [of the extracellular matrix] in the tissue; and

whereby the suppression of the deleterious accumulation of the extracellular matrix component treats the pathology or condition.

22. (once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the pathology or condition is glomerulonephritis.

23. (once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the pathology or condition is selected from the group consisting of adult respiratory distress syndrome or cirrhosis of the liver.

24. (once amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the agent [is] comprises an anti-TGF- β antibody.

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cont. 25. (once amended) The method of claim 24, wherein
the condition [pathology] is [glomerulonephritis] scarring.

27. (once amended) A method of decreasing the
[production] deleterious accumulation of a TGF- β induced
[proteoglycan] extracellular matrix component in a tissue [by a
cell which produces the proteoglycan], comprising:
contacting the [cell] tissue with an agent which
decreases the [amount] activity of TGF- β ; or
contacting the tissue with an agent which inhibits the
[proteoglycan] extracellular matrix component-inducing [inducing]
activity of the TGF- β [in contact with the cell];
whereby the decrease in the activity of the TGF- β
decreases the deleterious accumulation of the extracellular
matrix component; and
whereby [wherein] the agent is not a general protein
synthesis inhibitor.

28. The method of claim 21 or 27, wherein the cell is
a mesangial cell.

29. (once amended) The method of claim 21 or 27
wherein the extracellular matrix component comprises proteoglycan
[is selected from the group consisting of biglycan and decorin].

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Please add the following new claims:

30. (NEW) The method of claim 29, wherein the proteoglycan is selected from the group consisting of biglycan and decorin.

31. (NEW) A method of decreasing the synthesis of a TGF- β by a cell in a tissue which produces the TGF- β , comprising:
contacting the tissue with an agent which decreases the activity of TGF- β ; and
whereby the decreased activity of TGF- β decreases the synthesis by the cell of the TGF- β .

32. (NEW) A method of treating a pathology or a condition characterized by a TGF- β -induced deleterious accumulation of an extracellular matrix component in a tissue, comprising:
contacting the tissue with an agent which decreases the activity of TGF- β ; or
contacting the tissue with an agent which inhibits the extracellular matrix component-inducing activity of TGF- β ;
whereby the decrease in the activity of the TGF- β decreases the deleterious accumulation of the extracellular matrix component.